

[77] CHAPTER VI.

OF THE BAPTISM OF TWO HURONS WHO PASSED THE
WINTER AT KEBEC.

AS Father Jean de Brebeuf, who is well versed in the Huron language, was detained at Kebec by the affairs of the Mission,—some Hurons, among those who were considered less averse to the Faith, were invited to spend a winter near him, so as to be thoroughly instructed. The difficulty of returning at a season that already began to make us feel the severity of cold weather—which is said to have been quite extraordinary this year—seemed likely to compel them to accept this offer. But God had cast his eyes on two poor stray sheep, that he wished to bring back to his fold. His providence is as adorable as it is secret. Some of these poor Barbarians were requested to remain, but they were unable to enjoy that favor and were allowed to go. Some of them, who had already started, retraced their steps, but they were sent back because we wished to choose only those who were the best disposed; [78] and because we were too careful, neither good nor bad remained with us. They all went away, and had already gone more than fifty leagues, when one Atondo, and another named Okhukwadoron, left their companions, retraced their steps, and came back to the French. They had no intention of placing themselves under instruction; but God sent them back for that purpose. They dreaded the severity